

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ACDA-05 MC-01 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IGA-01

AID-05 /081 W

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O R 041405Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6671

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1603

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS SPECULATION ON US ARMS POLICY INCREASES

REF: MEDIA REACTION REPORT NO. 587

1. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF NEWS STORIES, ANALYTICAL
PIECES AND EDITORIALS IN THE INDIAN PRESS OVER THE PAST
WEEK DEVOTED TO THE QUESTION OF US ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN
AND TIED TO PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S CURRENT VISIT TO
WASHINGTON. THE PREDOMINANT THEME OF THESE PIECES IS THAT
ALTHOUGH THE US IS UNDER PAKISTANI PRESSURE TO LIFT THE
LETHAL ARMS EMBARGO, IF IT DOES SO THE STABLE SITUATION IN
SOUTH ASIA WILL BE JEOPARDIZED. THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS
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AT AMBASSADOR KAUL'S DINNER FOR AMBASSADOR SAXBE WERE

EXTENSIVELY REPORTED AND SEEN AS A HOPEFUL SIGN.

2. NEWSPAPERS ON FEBRUARY 4 REPORT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE US MAY DECIDE TO SELL AT LEAST SOME LETHAL WEAPONS TO PAKISTAN. THE LEAD LINES IN A NUMBER OF FEBRUARY 4 NEW DELHI PRESS ITEMS ASSERT THE "US MAY LIFT EMBARGO ON ARMS TO PINDI." TWO OF THESE PROMINENT STORIES WERE BASED ON A PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) STORY QUOTING THE SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON ARMS SUPPLY AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ON FEBRUARY 3. PTI REPORTED THAT A SHIFT IN THE US ARMS POLICY WAS BEING BROADLY HINTED AT IN WASHINGTON ON THE EVE OF THE BHUTTO VISIT. BOTH THE PTI REPORT AND AN INDIAN EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE REPORT REFER TO A NEW YORK TIMES STORY WHICH DISCUSSES VARIOUS OPTIONS THE US MAY BE CONSIDERING. BOTH CONCLUDE THE ADMINISTRATION IS LEANING TOWARDS A DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE SALE OF SOME LETHAL WEAPONS. THE EXPRESS ARGUES THAT THE MOST TELLING ARGUMENT AGAINST RESUMPTION OF SALES IS PAKISTAN'S MISUSE OF AMERICAN SUPPLIED ARMS IN THE PAST.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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